

Florin Japanese American Citizens League
Oral History Project

Oral History Interview

with

HIDEKO WAKITA

June through August 1989
Sacramento, California

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JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE

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PREFACE

In the summer of 1987, a small group of people from the Florin JACL met at Mary and Al Tsukamoto's home to plan a new project for the organization. Because of the unique history of Florin, we felt that there were special stories that needed to be preserved. The town of Florin, California was once a thriving farming community with a large Japanese American population. The World War II internment of persons of Japanese ancestry living on the west coast, devastated the town and it never recovered. Today there is no town of Florin; it has been merged into the larger county of Sacramento. Many Japanese Americans who reside throughout the United States, however, have their origins from Florin, or have relatives and friends who once had ties to this community. The town may no longer exist, but the spirit of the community continues to survive in people's hearts and memories.

Several hours have been devoted to interviewing former Florin residents. The focus of the interviews was on the forced internment and life in the relocation camps, but our questions touched on other issues. We asked about their immigration to the United States from Japan, pre-war experiences, resettlement after the war and personal philosophies. We also wanted to record the stories of the people left behind. They were friends and neighbors who watched in anguish as the trains transported the community away.

We have conducted these interviews with feelings of urgency. If we are to come away with lessons from this historic tragedy, we must listen to and become acquainted with the people who were there. Many of these historians are in their 70's, 80's and 90's. We are grateful that they were willing to share their experiences and to answer our questions with openness and thoughtfulness.

We owe special thanks to James F. Carlson, former Assistant Dean of American River College and to Jackie Reinier, former Director of the Oral History Program at California State University in Sacramento. Without their enthusiasm, encouragement and expertise, we never could have produced this collection of oral histories. We also wish to acknowledge the project members, volunteers, the Florin JACL which contributed financial support, Sumitomo Bank for their corporate donation, and the Taisho Young Mens Association which contributed some of their assets as they dissolved their corporation on December 31, 1991.

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INTERVIEW HISTORY

Interviewer

Mary T. Tsukamoto, Historian and Redress Activist.
Florin Japanese American Citizens League; Author of We
the People, A Story of Internment in America, Laguna
Publishers, 1987.

Interview Time and Place

June 7, July 19 and August 1989.
Sacramento Japanese Methodist Church-Tanoshimikai
6929 Franklin Boulevard
Sacramento, California

Transcribing and Translating

The interview was conducted in Japanese. Due to the background noise, the quality of the recording was poor. After the passing of Mrs. Wakita on May 7, 1990, this tape became more valuable to the family. Florence Mizoguchi, the first daughter, was asked if she would assist us in transcribing the oral tape. Florence lovingly translated the tape.

Editing

Lillian Nakazato typed the translated text.
Florence Mizoguchi was asked to review the text,
and Mary Tsukamoto was asked to make the final
review. This was completed on December 1, 1992.
Elizabeth Pinkerton edited the book for its completion.

Photography

Several pictures were provided by Florence Mizoguchi to include in the book. Dan Inouye reproduced all the pictures provided by the family.

Tapes and Interview Records

Copies of the bound transcript and the tapes will be kept by the Florin Japanese American Citizen League and in the University Archives at The Library, California State University, Sacramento, 6000 J Street, Sacramento, California, 95819.

BIOGRAPHICAL SUMMARY

Hideko Wakita was born in Wakayama-ken, Japan on December 21, 1906. Her mother was Tomoye Wakita and her father was Saichiro Wakita. Both were from Wakayama. Her father left for America soon after Hideko was born. A few years later, her mother went to join him, leaving Hideko with her grandmother. When she was ten years of age in 1916, her grandmother brought her to San Francisco. There she met her father and felt like he was a stranger since she had never really known him nor felt close to him. She had a hard time calling him "papa". Months went by before she could.

Hideko's grandmother was an aunt to Mrs. Umeda (Mike Umeda's mother). After three years, Grandmother went back to Japan.

Hideko attended Sierra School from third grade on. A neighbor friend, two years older than she at the time, Yoneko Kadoya, helped her go to school. They became good friends and she appreciated that. She was put in the third grade; her teachers were two sisters, Mabel and Mildred Walker, who taught at Sierra during the 1920s. Hideko's father wanted to return to Japan some day soon, so Hideko was discouraged from going on to high school.

Instead of continuing her schooling, Hideko studied sewing. In 1927 when she was 21, she and Fred Kenichiro Ito were married. Since the Wakitas had no sons and Hideko was the eldest--Kenichiro, the son-in-law, was adopted and became Fred Kenichiro Wakita, a "yoshi."

Hideko's mother died in 1932 or 1933. They were to farm where Hideko's father had been farming. Saichiro Wakita took his youngest daughter, Elizabeth, with him and returned to Japan since he had become a widower. He later remarried in Japan. Elizabeth too was married in Japan and had a son. Another baby was on the way when Elizabeth learned her husband was killed in the war with China in Shanghai.

Saichiro looked after Elizabeth now widowed and her two children. He built her a house.

Years later after the war, Hideko and her sister Toshiko Umeda visited their father in Japan when he was ill. They flew there, but because they bought many Japanese dishes that were heavy, they returned on a boat which took two weeks. Poor Toshiko was sick all during the trip on the boat. Hideko, however, enjoyed it.

Hideko mentions her first trip on a boat with her grandmother when she was ten. Since she was the only child, people were especially kind to her. When they stopped in Hawaii, they all gave her bananas. After a while she even threw bananas overboard. To this day, Hideko dislikes bananas. Hideko and Fred and their family were active in the Florin Japanese Methodist Church. They often opened their home for members to meet there.

The three daughters of Hideko and Kenichiro (Fred) were still in elementary school when 2500 persons living around the town of Florin in a ten mile radius were abruptly interned. By this time, Fred had been employed by Nash de Camp Co.

Hideko and her sister Toshiko Umeda and their families all around Taishoku (a cluster settlement started around 1919 in Florin near Fruitridge Rd. and Hedge Ave. during Taisho Emperor reign) were sent to Fresno Assembly Center. They endured a terribly hot summer there in the heat of San Joaquin Valley until October when they were moved to Jerome, Arkansas. When Jerome was to be closed to consolidate and make the WRA (War Relocation Authority) camps efficient, the Wakitas were moved to another camp; some to Rohwer, some to Heart Mountain and many to Gila, Arizona. That's where the Wakitas stayed in Gila until February 1945 when it was announced that people in internment camps could go home.

Many by then had nowhere to go after three years of internment.

Fred Wakita was anxious to get home for in January and February the Tokay grapes needed to be pruned and cared for if they were to be harvested in September or October. It was critical they return home early' but many were afraid.

Fred Wakita followed some braver ones who had returned in January. They had been intimidated when Mukai's place was burned. Some of them went back into camp to report to families and let people know the atmosphere was tense.

The Wakita place had been rented, they thought to people they had known through the Nash de Camp Produce Shippers that Fred Wakita had worked for. Now everything was gone. Their furniture and dishes were gone! They were shocked. It took them a long time to get the place cleaned up, fixed and livable. Because they had extra rooms, the Mukais stayed there until they could rebuild.

The market for Tokay grape had no chance with better imported grapes in post-war U.S.A. Fred pulled his vines out and decided to raise beef cattle. He needed many acres for grazing, and it was a lot of work. Wonderful neighbors and a kind Indian friend who taught her husband all about raising cattle helped tremendously.

Hideko's children were eventually married. Florence married Max Mizoguchi. They had five girls. One granddaughter has a great grand child (1989). One daughter, Joyce became a nurse, and married Dr. Mineta of San Jose and Jeannette married Rev. Inadomi.

Fred Wakita passed away in 1991.

Hideko-san expressed joy in being able to enjoy her children, eight grandchildren and a great grandchild. She appreciated their love and the get-togethers with them. She passed away shortly after the interview was completed.

Mary Tsukamoto

[Sessions: June 7, 1989 to July 19, 1989]

TSUKAMOTO: We want to record your history from long ago concerning your struggle in this country, so students can study and write about your experience. If it's okay with you, we will tape this conversation and give it to students so they can write a book, study and use it. Mrs. Ito, Mrs. Kato, Mr. Abe and Mrs. Imadas are completed.

WAKITA: How is Mr. Abe?

TSUKAMOTO: We completed Mr. Abe's in March. We will donate one tape to the university, one to JACL and one tape to you so your great grandchildren can remember you after you're gone. I want you to sign this paper with your name and address and it will be useful for all the people that are left. Today is June 7, 1989. We are taping Mrs. Hideko Wakita.

WAKITA: Hideko Jane Wakita--6630 13th Street,
Sacramento, CA 95831.

TSUKAMOTO: Please sign here. On the first line--Thank you. I have known Mrs. Wakita for many, many years and she's going to share her experiences. She is an Issei because she came from Japan when she was very young. This will

be the tape we will have today. Mrs. Wakita, what do you remember about long time ago? Do you remember about Japan? When did you come to the U.S.?

WAKITA: I came to America when I was 10 years old.

TSUKAMOTO: Where did you come from?

WAKITA: Wakayama-ken.

TSUKAMOTO: At ten years old--What year was it?

WAKITA: That I don't remember

TSUKAMOTO: Okay, it's all right. What year were you born?

WAKITA: 1906

TSUKAMOTO: 1906--Born in Wakayama-ken, Japan. If you were ten--it was 1916 when you came to the U.S. Did you come to Florin?

WAKITA: I came to Taisho-ku.

TSUKAMOTO: If you came to the U.S. at ten years old, you must remember a lot.

WAKITA: When I came to America, my father came after me to San Francisco, but I never saw him since birth, so I called him oji-san. I just couldn't say father for one month. It was around April, they had twelve or thirteen people hired. One of the workers told me not to say, "oji-san" and say, "papa" since you came to America. But, I couldn't say, "papa"

since I had no love for him for the longest time. If you do not know your parents when you were very young and were separated, you do not get very close and feel at ease, but my mother came three years before me to the U.S. I felt closest to my mother, but I never felt close to my father.

TSUKAMOTO: Yeah. Isseis and Niseis suffered like this, since they were separated and brought up apart like this.

WAKITA: But when father came after us to San Francisco, I came down from the ship with my grandmother. She thought I was too young to travel alone.

TSUKAMOTO: Oh! How old was your grandmother?

WAKITA: Fifty-nine.

WAKITA: Grandmother said, I don't think Saichiro (Hideko's father) is here yet. He is not that dark. I said, "No that's my father." He was dark since it was in April. Then, we went to immigration at Angel's Island. I passed the test right away, but Grandmother had to stay there for three weeks, because of the new U.S. law with Japan. I came to Florin right away. but Grandmother was left there. I came back with father calling him "oji-san" (laugh).

TSUKAMOTO: How long did your grandmother stay in U.S.?

WAKITA: She stayed in the U.S. three years. She said, she can't stay in this hot country like the U.S.

TSUKAMOTO: Oh, is that right?

WAKITA: My grandmother and Mike Umeda's mother were related. She was grandmother's niece.

TSUKAMOTO: Oh! Your grandmother and Mike Umeda's mother were related?

WAKITA: Nieces--so they looked alike.

TSUKAMOTO: Is that right? Okay. I guess you went to school.

WAKITA: Then I went to Sierra School.

TSUKAMOTO: How was it?

WAKITA: School? When I went to school I couldn't understand English. Teachers' names were Mabel Walker and Mildred Walker. They were sisters. At first, Mabel Walker taught me.

You know Yoneko Hamamoto? She lived behind our place, so she took me to school. She was very kind.

TSUKAMOTO: So, what is the age difference between you and Yoneko?

WAKITA: She was only one or two years older.

TSUKAMOTO: I think her maiden name was Kadoya.

WAKITA: Yeah, Kadoya.

TSUKAMOTO: Hm hm--two years older. (twelve years old)

WAKITA: She took me to school every morning. She was a really nice friend.

TSUKAMOTO: Okay, so you went to school. Did you graduate from grammar school?

WAKITA: Yes, but I didn't understand English .

TSUKAMOTO: You were ten years old, so which class did you start from?

WAKITA: They put me in third grade.

TSUKAMOTO: Oh! If you learn English you can do other things.

WAKITA: I did well in math and spelling.

TSUKAMOTO: How long did you take?

WAKITA: In about five years I graduated.

TSUKAMOTO: You graduated in 1921?

WAKITA: I guess so. After that I could have gone to high school, but my father said he was going back to Japan, so instead of going to high school, they told me to go to sewing school. So, I went to sewing school.

TSUKAMOTO: Your mother and father had plans to go to Japan; but only your Father went?

WAKITA: Yes.

TSUKAMOTO: Sewing school--where did you go?

WAKITA: Kataoka Sewing School

TSUKAMOTO: Then what do you remember? What did you like to make?

WAKITA: She taught us to make blouses, dresses, overcoats and everything. I made a very good overcoat with a matching hat!

TSUKAMOTO: Even a hat? It was really nice then! What else do you remember? Something funny or unusual happening?

WAKITA: When grandmother went to Japan, she died three years later.

TSUKAMOTO: You never went to Japan since you were going to school. Then you didn't have anyone you knew living in Japan?

WAKITA: No, my mother died in the U.S.

TSUKAMOTO: Your mother died before she went to Japan. I remember your mother. Was she ill?

WAKITA: She had kidney trouble. She died in 1933.

TSUKAMOTO: Were you married by then?

WAKITA: I was married and my mother died when she was fifty-two.

TSUKAMOTO: Was Rev. Y. Sasaki here?

WAKITA: Yes, I think so.

TSUKAMOTO: I think Rev. Sasaki came here around 1932-1933.

WAKITA: Yes, it was 1932-1933.

TSUKAMOTO: You were already married. Why was Mr. Wakita's name the same as yours? Was he yoshi? (If there is no son in the bride's family, the groom who adopts the bride's family name is referred to as "yoshi"). So Kenichiro Fred Ito became Kenichiro Fred Wakita.

WAKITA: Yes.

TSUKAMOTO: What was your husband's first name?

WAKITA: Kenichiro.

TSUKAMOTO: So--he was yoshi and the name became Wakita. Do you remember anything else to leave as a message for your great grandchildren? Did you go to Japan?

WAKITA: Yes, I did. I went to Japan with my sister, Toshiko (Umeda), when my father wrote he was ill. After my mother, died he went back to Japan and remarried.

TSUKAMOTO: Oh, so he went back to Japan by himself.

WAKITA: He went back to Japan with my youngest sister, Elizabeth (No. 3 sister). She's in Japan now. Later she got married to a soldier who was killed. She has two sons.

TSUKAMOTO: So, she is still there?

WAKITA: Yes, I send her money often.

TSUKAMOTO: So, your father went to Japan and he got remarried?

WAKITA: Yes, my sister got married to a soldier.

TSUKAMOTO: Is she healthy?

WAKITA: Yes, she had one child. Her husband went to Shanghai and got killed by an American. But she had another child on the way. Since my father lived there, he looked after them and built her a house. In Japan if you rent the house, it is hard to get it back, so she is living in it.

TSUKAMOTO: Oh--she suffered without her husband.

WAKITA: Her husband's family was wealthy, but never helped her.

She had a piano teaching credential in the U.S., so she gave lessons before the war, but after the war no one took lessons.

TSUKAMOTO: Oh--she suffered.

WAKITA: My sister is seventy now.

TSUKAMOTO: So you and your sister Toshiko (No. 2 sister) went to Japan after your father got ill?

WAKITA: Yes.

TSUKAMOTO: Did you stay very long?

WAKITA: No we weren't there long. We stayed there about two weeks and came home. We went there

in an airplane, but came back in a boat. The reason is because we bought lots of dish sets. It took two weeks on a boat. I never got seasick, but my sister Toshiko got sick even with medications.

TSUKAMOTO: Oh.

WAKITA: I guess I have a strong stomach.

TSUKAMOTO: Seasick for two weeks is terrible. After you got back, you must have worked hard since you had children?

WAKITA: Yes, yes.

TSUKAMOTO: How many children do you have?

WAKITA: Three daughters--Florence, Joyce and Jeanette.

TSUKAMOTO: Oh yeah.

WAKITA: Joyce is married to a doctor since she was a nurse. Jeanette liked church, so she married a minister. She went to Chicago. After ten years he resigned from the ministry.

TSUKAMOTO: Let's see something that you think was the best. What do you remember about the camp life? Were your children young?

WAKITA: Yes, they were all going to school.

TSUKAMOTO: Were your children in high school?

WAKITA: No, they were going to grammar school then.

TSUKAMOTO: Where did you go?

WAKITA: Jerome, Arkansas.

TSUKAMOTO: We went from Fresno to Arkansas.

WAKITA: Yes.

TSUKAMOTO: It was sure hot!

WAKITA: So--muggy.

TSUKAMOTO: What do you remember the most?

WAKITA: After you took a shower, and on the way back to your barrack, you were already sticky again!

TSUKAMOTO: We were always sticky.

WAKITA: In Arkansas all the men went to cut fire wood.

TSUKAMOTO: Yes--we did all kinds of things. How was it when you came back (to California)? Did you lose a lot?

WAKITA: Yes. We didn't get too much. Our claimed loss was only \$5,000.

TSUKAMOTO: Most of the people didn't have proof to show what they possessed.

WAKITA: We were raising cattle after the war.

TSUKAMOTO: Tell us about it.

WAKITA: It was after the war when we came back. Two years we did grapes, but the grapes were so cheap so we dug up the grapes and made into pasture and planted clover. Way past Mather Field, we bought 300 acres of winter pasture.

In the first year, a nice German woman named Mrs. Margaret Waegell loaned us land. But the second year she said she couldn't let us use the land, so we had to buy the land.

It was a winter pasture, so my daughters after school drove the pick-up and took the alfalfa to pasture field and back.

TSUKAMOTO: Oh, it was lots of trouble. So, the cattle weren't dairy cows?

WAKITA: No, no--beef--black cow with white face--Angus

TSUKAMOTO: How many years did you do this kind of farming?

WAKITA: We did this for many years and when Fred wanted to sell the cattle, he loaded them up on a truck and went to Dixon or Roseville auction to sell them. The man next door had some cattle, so he taught us all about it. His name was Guy Newton and he was an Indian but refused to admit he was an Indian. He couldn't fool the neighbors by the way he walked.

TSUKAMOTO: Oh, you could tell?

WAKITA: Yes, and we hired him to pull our grapes out, put the clover in, put the fence in, and he helped us in every way. We had to buy our

winter pasture and put the fence in and it was great!

TSUKAMOTO: Tell me about the incident after you came back.

WAKITA: After camp? After Jerome closed, we went to Gila, Arizona and from Gila to Florin in February 1945. Came back with Mukai's family, my sister Toshiko and family and Ito's family.

TSUKAMOTO: So all the people came home from camp with their children?

WAKITA: No, not right away, Frank Umeda and others came home before the Takeokas.

Takeoka came back to camp and said that you can't go home to a place like that, since they burned Mukai's home, so my husband went to the office to talk to a federal agent from San Francisco and told them they shouldn't be doing that. In the meantime, a building in Mayhew was burned and many others were being burned by arsonists so they were scared. So, they returned back to camp!

TSUKAMOTO: I guess they didn't want us to come back?

WAKITA: Yeah, yeah.

TSUKAMOTO: When Mukai's came back what did they do?

WAKITA: (They) stayed over at our place, since we had two rooms next to our garage. They said it was all right.

TSUKAMOTO: It was nice and you helped them out since you did that for them until they built their house after the fire.

WAKITA: Yes, they did.

TSUKAMOTO: Now tell me about your grandchildren and great grandchildren.

WAKITA: I have eight grandchildren.

TSUKAMOTO: You have eight great grandchildren. Whose children are they?

WAKITA: Five are Max and Florence's. Ages ten, eight, six--all quiet girls. Oldest helps a lot so its okay. If you have five, they are all well-behaved children not like an only child. They are well-trained and brought up well-behaved and not spoiled.

[Session, August 21, 1989]

TSUKAMOTO: After your father went back to Japan how often did you go to visit him?

WAKITA: I went to visit him one time because he was sick.

TSUKAMOTO: You said your father ran the theater. Who was using the theater?

WAKITA: No, my father was running it.

TSUKAMOTO: So, what were they showing?

WAKITA: They were showing movies everyday.

TSUKAMOTO: Oh, movies! Who was showing the movies?

WAKITA: He hired someone to run the movies. Lots of men and women were hired.

TSUKAMOTO: Where was it in Japan?

WAKITA: Kokawa-cho.

TSUKAMOTO: What ken?

WAKITA: Wakayama-ken.

TSUKAMOTO: You said Takarazuka Tour came too.

WAKITA: Yes, they came there too. Before that I went to see it at Osaka--it was all girls acting parts of men and had their hair cut like men. They were really good.

TSUKAMOTO: Yes they are good, acting like a man in all girls act; (they) change their voice and movements like a man.

WAKITA: When they performed till 12:00 P.M., all the actors slept upstairs at my father's house on the floor on mats.

TSUKAMOTO: All the stars?

WAKITA: Yes, so my father had a big room. When we went to Japan, we had an American bed just for us.

TSUKAMOTO: How many actors were there?

WAKITA: About thirty of them.

TSUKAMOTO: They all slept there?

WAKITA: It was late so he let them sleep there....Only one night. The night they performed and they left early in the morning.

TSUKAMOTO: Did you feed them and everything?

WAKITA: No, we didn't feed them. We always let them sleep overnight, all the performers.

TSUKAMOTO: You came to America. The saddest and worst things happening were what?

WAKITA: No, I didn't have anything bad happen.

TSUKAMOTO: So, you didn't have anything bad, that's good. You came to America and it was great.

WAKITA: Yes.

TSUKAMOTO: What was great about it?

WAKITA: Can't help--ha! Since mother and father were here.

TSUKAMOTO: Then you didn't want to come to America at first

WAKITA: No, not that I didn't want to come since they sent for me and I thought America was great and was coming by boat. I was all by myself so they gave me a whole bunch of bananas and I had the most bananas. I hated bananas and I had a Japanese kimono on so I had the banana inside

and went to throw it in the ocean. Even now, I don't like bananas.

TSUKAMOTO: (Laugh) did you get bananas from Japan?

WAKITA: No, from Hawaii when we docked there. Since I was the only child aboard everyone was nice to me.

TSUKAMOTO: Did you have relatives or friends in Hawaii?

WAKITA: No, no, but people bought things for me.

TSUKAMOTO: That was nice. Everyone was so nice to you and you could remember that.

WAKITA: Yes.

TSUKAMOTO: You came to America and got married and had children and were doing work at Taisho-ku, what were your precious moments? Do you remember?

WAKITA: I don't remember precious moments.

TSUKAMOTO: What kind of work did you do?

WAKITA: We were growing grapes.

TSUKAMOTO: You were working in the hot vineyard; (you) fell in the ditches with tall grasses around.

WAKITA: Since my husband started working in the office at Nash de Camp Company (fruit grower) I became foreman of our farm and hired many Filipinos and they lived in the garage annex for many years

TSUKAMOTO: Just grapes and no strawberries?

Wakita: Yes, no strawberries before camp.

TSUKAMOTO: Just grapes when you were ordered to camp.
What did you do to your house and ranch?

WAKITA: The president's son or daughter of Nash de Camp
Company who came from Idaho ran the place.

TSUKAMOTO: Oh!

WAKITA: They only brought a baby crib and had nothing
else. They needed all our furniture, dishes,
etc. We left everything and I don't know what
happened to all of it.

TSUKAMOTO: Then you left everything?

WAKITA: Yes, we had to leave everything for them. When
we came back from camp everything was gone.
They didn't have anything, so when they heard
we were coming back they took everything and
left.

TSUKAMOTO: So, they took it

WAKITA: Yes, they took it.

TSUKAMOTO: No one told them they must pay rent or
anything?

WAKITA: Yes, at least the grapes weren't dead so it was
great. Even then we lost rent money, furniture
and everything.

TSUKAMOTO: After Jerome where did you go?

WAKITA: Arizona.

WAKITA: I guess I was in camp No. 2.

TSUKAMOTO: So when did you come back?

WAKITA: Around 1945--February.

TSUKAMOTO: That was early.

WAKITA: February 6, 1945.

TSUKAMOTO: Oh--everyone came back?

WAKITA: Our family, my sister Toshiko and girls, Mukais and Itos.

TSUKAMOTO: How did you feel when you came back?

WAKITA: My husband's brother (Ito) came back in January.

TSUKAMOTO: That was early, oh--the persons that came home early really suffered, isn't that so?

WAKITA: My husband, when he went to the barber shop-- he was a little taller than others, but the shorter people were called--Jap! Jap!

TSUKAMOTO: So, you couldn't even get a haircut.

WAKITA: My husband went.

TSUKAMOTO: So, Mukai's house was burned down.

WAKITA: Yeah, yeah, the neighbor burned the house with gas.

Frank Umeda, Mikio Takeoka and Mike Umeda came home to look around in January 11th or 12th of 1945. At that time they burned Mukai's home and a building in Mayhew.

TSUKAMOTO: Mayhew's home? Whose was it? Was it Japanese school?

WAKITA: I don't remember. I don't think they had a Japanese school. So the men folks said we can't come home to Florin, it is such a scary place like this, so they went back to Gila. My husband told them you have to be strong and go back to Florin.

TSUKAMOTO: I wonder if it was a Baptist church that was burned.

WAKITA: I don't remember.

TSUKAMOTO: So Mukai's home was burned and it was a serious problem until they built their home, isn't that so?

WAKITA: It was sad for the Mukai's when it got burned, we were packed and ready to come home. We came home in February and the Mukai's stayed with us until May. We had two rooms next to the garage.

TSUKAMOTO: That was nice you could do that for them.

WAKITA: Yeah, yeah.

TSUKAMOTO: So--it's nice you and your husband have lived so long and are healthy.

The End!